

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancel)

2. (Previously Presented) A method of increasing the sensitivity of a diagnostic test for diagnosing *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection in a human, wherein said diagnostic test comprises contacting T cells from said human with a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen which is not Rv3879c, and determining whether any of the said T-cells recognise said antigen; said method additionally comprising
 - (i) contacting T-cells from said human with one or more of
 - (a) a peptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (b) a peptide consisting of the sequence of at least 8 consecutive amino acids of the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1; or
 - (c) a peptide consisting of a sequence which is capable of binding to a T-cell receptor which recognises a peptide as defined in (a) or (b); and
 - (ii) determining whether any of the said T-cells recognise said peptide,
 wherein the method is optionally carried out *in vitro*.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein step (i) further comprises contacting said T-cells with one or more further *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* T-cell antigen(s) or with an analogue(s) of said antigen(s) which is capable of binding to a T-cell receptor which recognises said antigen(s).

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein said one or more further *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens include antigens encoded by the RD-1 or RD-2 region, which antigens are preferably ESAT-6 and/or CFP10; or fragments thereof which are at least 8 amino acids long.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen which is not Rv3879c is selected from Rv3873, Rv3878 or Rv1989c; or fragments thereof which are at least 8 amino acids long.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein step (i) comprises contacting said sample of T-cells with two or more different peptides, each consisting of the sequence of at least 8 consecutive amino acids of the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.
7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein peptides from, or analogues of, at least five different antigens are contacted with the T cells.
8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein one or more of the peptides
 - (i) consisting of any one of SEQ ID NO's 2 to 18, or
 - (ii) which bind to a T-cell which recognise (i), are contacted with the T cells.
9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein recognition of said peptide by said T-cells is determined by detecting the secretion of a cytokine from the T-cells.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the cytokine is IFN- γ .
11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein said cytokine is detected by allowing said cytokine to bind to an immobilised antibody specific to said cytokine and detecting the presence of the antibody/cytokine complex.
12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said T-cells are freshly isolated *ex vivo* cells.
13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said T-cells have been cultured *in vitro*.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic composition comprising a peptide as defined in

step (a), (b) or (c) of claim 2 and one or more further *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* T-cell antigens selected from (i) Rv3873 and Rv1989c or a fragment thereof which is at least 8 amino acids long, or (ii) an analogue of (i) which binds to a T-cell which recognises (i).

16. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 15 further comprising one or more *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens are selected from

(i) ESAT-6, CFP10, and Rv3878, or fragment of any thereof which is at least 8 amino acids long; or

(ii) an analogue of (i) which binds to a T-cell which recognises (i).

17. (Previously Presented) A kit for diagnosing *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection or exposure in a human, comprising a composition as defined in claim 15, and optionally a means for detecting recognition of a peptide by T-cells.

18. (Original) A kit according to claim 17, wherein said means for detecting recognition of a peptide by T-cells comprises an antibody to a cytokine.

19. (Original) A kit according to claim 18, wherein said antibody is immobilised on a solid support and wherein said kit optionally comprises a means to detect an antibody/cytokine complex.

20. (Previously Presented) A kit according to claim 18, wherein said cytokine is IFN- γ .

21. (Currently Amended) A method of ascertaining the stage of a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection in a human comprising determining whether there is a differential T cell response to different *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens in the human, comprising:

(i) determining the T-cell response to at least one of Rv3879c, Rv3873, Rv3878, and Rv1989c;

(ii) determining the T-cell response to ~~at least one of~~ ESAT-6 and CFP-10; and

(iii) comparing the responses in (i) and (ii); wherein, where the T-cell response is positive to at least one of the antigens of step

(i) and negative to the antigens of step (ii), the stage of the infection is deemed to be recent.

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